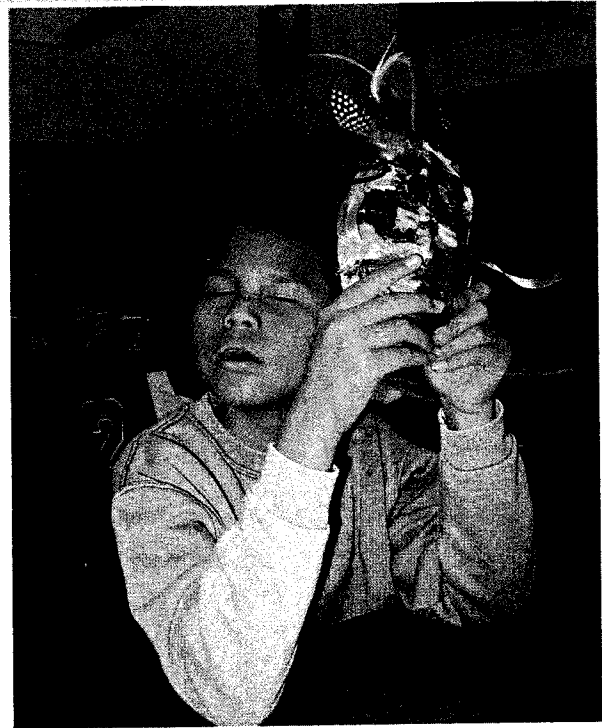


INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS STORY



Isaiah, a student at Crow Agency, has been blind from birth. With the individual help from his full time teacher, Lois Rides Horse, Isaiah participated in the classroom with the other students during art sessions. He was given the same opportunities as the other students with added tactile experiences. He enjoyed being included with the students, gaining their respect when he participated in the classroom discussions; such as the temperature of color and emotional responses to the mask making project. He enjoyed writing about art in Braille and loved sharing with the other students. When the class drew their self-portraits, Isaiah formed his in clay. The exercise proved to be an excellent study in self awareness. He paid much attention to every detail of his face including eye balls and tongue. He was proud of his creation and entered it in the Crow Indian Days Arts and Crafts Show in June 2006, where he received a cash award for first place in sculpture .

Each student wrote a story about their mask to accompany the assignment. Isaiah typed his in Braille and submitted it. His story follows:

My Face

My face has a nose, a mouth, eyes, cheeks and a heart over the lips. I made it even though I can't see. The elk teeth block everything. I can see with my hands, even my ears. There are different shapes of thoughts all over my face. My favorite is the heart over the lips. I have to talk nice. The feathers are dancing on my head.

YELLOWSTONE ART MUSEUM

2006 in a Nutshell

December 2006

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 2.13.07
HB 9

To our many, many supporters we offer a tremendous THANK YOU! Without our members, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and the countless tangible and intangible good deeds done for the Yellowstone Art Museum's benefit, we would not be Montana's premier art museum.

It has been a year of transition for the Yellowstone Art Museum. We are confident that change is good and necessary ... we look forward to many new initiatives as we look back proudly on much accomplished.

- **The Bair Trust's Challenge.** The Charles M. Bair Family Trust offered the Museum an extraordinary opportunity to fund a state-of-the-art collection storage facility, build our endowment, and acquire the bulk of the Bair family art collections. We have begun our effort to raise the \$1-million match, and are about 19% toward our goal.
- **An endowment campaign.** With an eye on institutional stability and program growth, we have launched the first major endowment effort in the institution's history. Our goals are ambitious, but we are confident that the support the community has shown for the arts throughout the Museum's 42-year history will continue.
- **Board of Trustee growth.** We increased our Board of Trustees from 18 to 24 members this summer, and are thrilled to have new trustees as we take the next step in the institution's development.
- **Staff transitions.** On 1 March, Carol Green stepped down after eight months of hard and necessary work as volunteer Interim Director to welcome Robyn G. Peterson as the new Executive Director. New Senior Curator Robert C. Manchester began in September. Also in September Associate Curator and Preparator Duane Braaten returned to his hometown of Great Falls. This month, we have accepted with regret the resignation of Development Director Julia Murphy whom many of you know through your years of generosity to the Museum.
- **Collections.** We added 41 new works to the permanent collection and published a new catalog of selections from our permanent collection, called *Montana Connections*. This project was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
- **Exhibitions.** Visitors had the opportunity to see eleven exhibitions, including a selection of world-renowned art from the collection of William I. Koch, Charles Fritz's very popular re-visioning of the Lewis & Clark expeditions, Michael Haykin's lush views of nature's intimate details, and Jerry Cornelia's consummately crafted and humorous paintings.
- **Education.** We successfully completed a three-year grant for outreach art education, from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. With an unprecedented show of support, all of our partner schools and organizations under this grant have seen the value of the art education program and have agreed to fund it going forward. We expect to reach over 17,000 children this year with on-site and outreach arts education programming.
- **The new Young Artists' Gallery.** An expanded space for the exhibition of children's artwork has been very successful. A larger more prominent place to show the work of the next generation of artists and creative thinkers has engendered support from partner schools and parents, and has brought new audiences to the Museum.

- **Ever-popular special events.** The annual Art Auction, Summerfair, and the Beaux Arts Ball all enjoyed strong attendance and provided lively support for the arts. The success of the revived Small Works Auction signaled that the community wants still more. About a third of our operating revenues comes from our special events.
- **Community support.** The Billings area community continues to support us tremendously. We slightly exceeded our program sponsorship goal for fiscal year 2005-2006, which represented about 16% of our operating budget that year. And, this fiscal year, membership support has so far been fantastic ... we thank you!
- **Support from afar.** We've learned that more of our visitors come from out of state than we had previously believed ... about 25% in October alone. We've begun to survey our visitors and collect zip code data, which will allow us to understand our market better.
- **Running lean.** Our current operating budget is lower than those of the last several previous years. This presents us with challenges, to which we are responding creatively. The situation drives home our need for a good operations endowment.
- **Chic cuisine.** Art Beyond the Palette celebrated its one-year anniversary at the Museum ... a popular café with one of the most unique menus in town.
- **Chic shopping.** The Museum Store is one of Billings' best-kept secrets. We will investigate ways to make the Store and its array of beautiful and amazing wares more visible.

In the coming year ...

Our top priorities are ...

- Making significant progress on our endowment campaign
- Revising and updating the 2003 Strategic Plan
- Beginning preparations to apply for American Association of Museums accreditation
- Marketing our value to the community and enhancing community awareness of YAM
- Reviewing and refining policies in all operational areas
- Extending our temporary exhibition planning horizon to at least three years
- Building upon our solid, core educational programs
- Managing within our budgets

Join us in the journey ahead!!

Robyn G. Peterson, Executive Director

Kim Albright
Diane Cameron
Nancy Clark
Jennifer DuBois
Linda Ewert
Renée Giovando
Liz Harding
Jet Holoubek
Sara Kindsfater
Kevin Majewski
Robert Manchester

Kim Morgan
Eva Morganthaler
Julia Murphy
Kristi Niles
Pam Peterson
Matt Smith
Carol Welch
Nancy Wheeler